



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS RELEASE

200 E. Washington Street, Suite E224, Indianapolis IN, 46204  
Telephone: (317) 327-5090 ~ Fax: (317) 327-3446

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2011

**Media Contact:**

Elia James  
Senior Coordinator/PIO  
Division of Homeland Security  
Cell: 317.506.7770  
[elia.james2@indy.gov](mailto:elia.james2@indy.gov)

## **Dangerous Winter Storm Continues**

Indianapolis - A Winter Storm Warning continues to be in effect for Indianapolis today through Wednesday, February 2, 2011. Currently in Indianapolis we are experiencing freezing drizzle which will continue for the next few hours. NWS predicts freezing rain and sleet by late this morning and early afternoon. The heaviest freezing rain should be this evening from about 4:00 pm through 2:00 am. Travel is extremely treacherous at this time.

NWS Crystal Pettet also advised that there will be ice accumulations today of about one inch for Indianapolis. Wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour are expected beginning around 4:00 pm. Stay alert to the latest information.

The Division of Homeland Security (DHS) has activated the Emergency Operations Center at 6:00 am this morning to monitor the weather conditions closely. There are currently no reports of down power lines and there are no reports of loss of power. DHS is working with representatives from city, county and state public safety agencies to coordinate efforts during this winter storm event. Winter weather catches people unprepared. The following information is to help the residents of the Indianapolis area understand what to do during and after a winter storm.

We are reminding people to:

- **Please use caution and be aware of hazardous driving conditions. Roads are ice covered and dangerous.**  
People are encouraged to use discretion and not go out unless it is absolutely necessary. Traffic lights may be out and roads will be congested.
- **Plan alternate routes to prevent traffic jams.**
- **Have an emergency supply kit in the vehicle;**  
A fully charged Mobile phone, charger, spare batteries, blanket/sleeping bags, extra food and water are essential.
- **Keep the gas tank as full as possible;**  
If stranded, run the car periodically to preserve fuel, stay with the car, do not wander away.
- **Make sure someone knows your route and timetable.**
- **Have a disaster kit ready;**  
Major concerns for individuals are loss of heat, power, and telephone service. Individuals and families should have food and water, flashlights and batteries, first aid supplies and a battery operated radio in their disaster kit.
- **Emergency 911 phone system should be limited to life-threatening situations only.**

Prepare your home for a power outage. In the case that you have to leave your home and seek shelter, remember to bring your medications, and sleeping gear such as blankets and sleeping bags. Most of these items will not be provided by the shelter or will be in short supply.

- **Identify the most insulated room in advance; that's where you and your family can gather if you need to stay warm.**
- **Turn your thermostat to low and turn off the circuit breaker for your water heater to reduce high demand for electricity once the power comes back on.**
- **Turn off and unplug all unnecessary electrical equipment, including sensitive electronics.**  
This will help prevent an overload that can cause it to go off again.



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY **NEWS RELEASE**

200 E. Washington Street, Suite E224, Indianapolis IN, 46204  
Telephone: (317) 327-5090 ~ Fax: (317) 327-3446

- **Leave one light switch on so you'll know when electricity has been restored.**
- **Do not touch any electrical power lines and keep your family away from them.**
- **The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock and fire.**
- **If the carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Remember that carbon monoxide kills.**

These tips and more are available at the National Weather Service website at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter>.

City road closure information can be obtained online at <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/Road/Closings>.

State road conditions can be obtained at <http://indot.carsprogram.org/main.jsf>.

For more information go to [www.indy.gov/dps](http://www.indy.gov/dps) or visit the [DPS Facebook page](#).

###